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**The Island Alliance Announces Senator Edward M. Kennedy as Honorary Chair
of the 2nd Annual Boston Harbor Islands Sailing Regatta**
*Park Fundraising Event Receives Support from Boston Mayor Tom Menino, and Secretary Stephen
Pritchard, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

BOSTON, MA - August 3, 2006 -- The Island Alliance announced today that Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass) has been named the Honorary Chair of the 2nd Annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta (BHIR). The Regatta, which will be held on September 30, 2006, is a race featuring a figure-eight course around several of the Boston Harbor Islands. More than 150 boats of widely different classes are expected to participate. The Regatta has also received the support of Boston Mayor Tom Menino, and Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

“Senator Kennedy was instrumental in the creation of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area. It is through his efforts and unwavering support that we are able to make the 34-island park available to the community for educational and recreational purposes, and we are thrilled to have his support”, said Dick Cross, Chairman of the Island Alliance Board of Directors.

“The Regatta is a wonderful example of the work the Island Alliance has done in cooperation with its many partners to create opportunities for thousands of people to enjoy the historical, recreational and environmental resources of these magnificent islands. The work of preserving this national park area for our future generations is vital, and the participants in this event will have a truly memorable experience while at the same time contributing to Boston’s future,” stated Senator Kennedy.

The Boston Harbor Islands Regatta is not only a spectacular sailing and spectator event, but it also serves as an important fundraiser for the Island Alliance, the non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the awareness and use of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area. All of the proceeds from the regatta go directly to support park programs.

“The Boston Harbor Islands are magnificent jewels in the Harbor. We celebrated the opening of the newest gem, Spectacle Island, this summer,” said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. “The Boston Harbor Islands Sailing Regatta is a great way for folks to get out to the islands and enjoy the race, or for sailing enthusiasts to join in the fun. Everyone is guaranteed a good time and once you have visited one island, you will want to come back and explore the others. I want to thank our partners at the Island Alliance for their commitment to increasing visitor-ship to the islands.”

“The 2nd annual Boston Harbor Islands Regatta is the beginning of a great Boston tradition, much like the Boston Marathon. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is pleased to be a partner working with the Island Alliance, the National Parks Service and the City of Boston,” said Environmental Affairs Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard. “I encourage residents and visitors to experience this exciting event and see first-hand how investments in the Islands have contributed to the revitalization of Boston Harbor.”

The Boston Harbor Islands Regatta is a “pursuit race” where the slowest boats start first with faster boats starting later. Theoretically, everyone finishes at the same time, so like the tortoise and the hare, a local community boating team that can hold its lead might just beat a world class racing yacht. The unique figure-eight course, starts at, passes, and then finishes in front of an anticipated 1,000 spectators.

“Spectators will have the unique experience of being able to view the entire race from Fort Warren’s civil war ramparts on Georges Island – an easy ferry ride from Boston’s Long Wharf and Quincy’s Fore River. With the backdrop of the city skyline, this event will once again this year be memorable for participants and spectators alike,” said Island Alliance President Tom Powers. National Park Service Superintendent Bruce Jacobson observed, “Spectators will also view the race against the backdrop of the Outer Brewsters – the park’s wilderness islands.”

The regatta kicks off Friday evening, September 29th with a Captain’s Meeting & Reception at the Rowe’s Wharf Pavilion, followed by a dinner for sponsors and participants at the Boston Harbor Hotel. On Saturday morning, sailors will race past several features of Boston Harbor that have gained notoriety over the past 400 years. The first loop passes Boston Light, America’s first light station, off of Hull. It then threads between a group of rocky outcroppings and the lonesome lighthouse known simply as The Graves before entering a historic passage called “The Narrows”. The second, smaller loop skirts Hangman Rock and rounds Rainsford Island where the city’s immigrant quarantine hospital once stood. The race finishes back at Georges Island where it started.

For information on **Regatta sponsorship opportunities** for individuals and corporations, please contact Laurie Jackson at the Island Alliance, at 617-223-8326.

Visit BostonIslands.com/regatta for complete information on the **Boston Harbor Islands Regatta**.

For a complete listing of **Boston Harbor Island activities and ferry schedules**, visit BostonIslands.com

*The **Island Alliance** is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise public awareness and use of the Boston Harbor Islands national park area.*

*The **Boston Harbor Islands national park area** was established by Congress in 1996 and features 34 islands with 1,600 acres and 35 miles of ocean shoreline - all within 10 miles of downtown Boston. The National Park Service, DCR, City of Boston, and Island Alliance are members of the **Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**, which coordinates management of the island park.*

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